CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for managing inventory within a supply chain, comprising:

5   using intelligent agents to provide forecasts of demand for items distributed

within the supply chain;

using the forecasts to establish base stocking levels and reorder points within the

supply chain; and

using the established base stocking levels and reorder points to position items

10   within the supply chain so as to maximize efficiency and profitability when responding to

an order for an item.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of compiling historical

demand data for use in forecasting the demand for items.

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3. A computer readable media having instructions for managing inventory within a

supply chain, the instructions performing steps comprising:

providing forecasts of demand for items distributed within the supply chain;

using the forecasts to establish base stocking levels and reorder points within the

20   supply chain; and

using the established base stocking levels and reorder points to determine

positioning of items within the supply chain so as to maximize efficiency and

profitability when responding to an order for an item.